(c) the places in the country where these countries have already their consulates; and

(d) by when these consulates are going to be functional?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The United States has Consulates in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai while Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates have their Consulates in Mumbai only.

(d) Does not arise.

Russia and Britain's efforts to reduce Indo-Pak tension

276. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the efforts made by Russia and Britain to reduce tension between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether the same has brought any tangible results; and

(c) what are the areas of disputes between India and Pakistan that were discussed by Britain and Russia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The Government of India have been in touch with the international community on the issue of terrorism and the dangers it poses to regional and global peace and security. Our interaction with leading nations on this issue was further intensified after September 11 last year and the subsequent developments in our neighbourhood. Hon'ble Prime Minister, senior members of the Cabinet and senior Government officials have since then exchanged views with their counterparts, including from the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom, on regional and international security issues, the menace of international terrorism, as also on bilateral issues.

There is a clear understanding and acknowledgement in the international community of Pakistan's involvement with and support for cross-border terrorism and the unacceptability of this approach. Both the

Russian Federation and the United Kingdom have called upon Pakistan to fulfil its promises of abandoning terrorism and to put an end to cross-border terrorism, recognising this as an essential step for reduction in tensions between India and Pakistan.

Harassment of Indian immigrants in Italy

277. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal Indian immigrants in Italy are being harassed by Indian Foreign Office for issue of new passports;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the lower staff are seeking bribes to help them; and

(c) the action proposed to assist the Indians in ensuring that their FIRs on loss of passports are filed by the Italian Police and help them in getting new passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Our missions in Italy have dispensed with the system of registering of police reports for lost passports and are issuing authority letters to the applicants on the same day. If passport particulars are confirmed from the Passport Issuing Offices, duplicate passports are issued on the same day.

Issuance of passports to Abu Salem

278. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in India from where Abu Salem, the notorious underworld don, and his accomplice Monica Bedi got passports;

(b) whether these passports were issued under fictitious names;

(c) whether enquiries have been held in this regard;

(d) the number of persons involved in issuing passports; and